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MALDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)

FOR

1942

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA :
H. F. LUCAS & CO., 151, NORTH ROAD.

LONDON ROAD,
CHELMSFORD.
21st June, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of Maldon Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your district during the year 1942.

In accordance with the Circular from the Ministry of Health the report has been curtailed.

Owing to the abnormal conditions both before and since the outbreak of war, a great amount of time has had to be given to other than normal public health activities.

In spite of the considerable movement of population, no increase on the incidence of infectious disease occurred, and the general health of the community was maintained.

To my colleagues I am much indebted for valuable assistance in the preparation of this report.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I beg to thank the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. MACDONALD.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Clerk to the Rural District Council ..	L. H. Hiscott.
Assistant Clerk	H. J. Freeman, Solicitor.
Medical Officer of Health	John F. Macdonald, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H., who also acts in this capacity for the Rural Districts of Chelmsford and Rochford.
Clerk to Medical Officer of Health ..	M. C. Barton (in H.M. Forces from September, 1939). Mrs. M. Marshall.
Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector	W. Almond, A.R.San.I., who also acts as Water Engineer.
Second Sanitary Inspector	M. H. McIntosh, Cert.-S.I.B., Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
Assistant Surveyor	A. G. E. Peters.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1942

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres	78,507 (land and inland water).
Registrar General's estimate of civilian population 1942 ..	13,120
Census Population, 1931	13,348 (new area).
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1942	£69,395
Product of a penny Rate for the year ending 1st April, 1942	£290

Except in certain centres, the district is very sparsely populated. Most of the population is directly or indirectly dependent upon agriculture, nearly 50 per cent. of the adult male population being directly employed in the industry.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total	Males	Females	
Live Births	Legitimate	194	97	97	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.6
	Illegitimate	11	5	6	
Still Births	Legitimate	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 14.4
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths ..		196	102	94	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 14.9

Deaths from Puerperal and Post abortive sepsis :—

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births
From sepsis ..	—	—
From other maternal causes	—	—

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age :—

Males 4 (illegitimate 0), Females 3 (illegitimate 1) Total 7

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

Legitimate per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	30.9
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, Illegitimate ,, ,, ...	90.9
All Infants ,, ,, ,, Live Births	34.1

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	30
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	Nil

The following tabular statements give details of the number of deaths classified according to age and cause :—

Deaths at various ages :—

Age	Total
Under 1 year	7
1 and under 2	—
2 ,, ,, 5	1
5 ,, ,, 15	1
15 ,, ,, 25	1
25 ,, ,, 35	6
35 ,, ,, 45	5
45 ,, ,, 55	9
55 ,, ,, 65	19
65 ,, ,, 75	60
75 and over	87
Total	196

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	—	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2	5
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	15	15	30
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intra Cranial vascular lesions	10	9	19
Heart Disease	38	39	77
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	—	—
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	2	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1	2	3
Nephritis	2	3	5
Puerperal and Post abortive sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—
Malformation, etc.	4	2	6
Premature Birth	—	—	—
Suicide	2	—	2
Road traffic accidents	3	1	4
Other violence	3	1	4
All other causes	16	11	27
Totals	102	94	196

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR, 1942.

	Rate per 1,000 civilian population.		Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 registered live births.
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes.	
England and Wales ..	15.8	11 6	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	17.3	13.3	59
148 Smaller Towns Resident Population of from 25,000 to 50,000 (1931 Census) ..	18.4	12.1	46
Maldon Rural District	15.6	14.9*	34

*In order to render this figure comparable with the death rate for the Country as a whole, it must be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," or as it is now styled the "Areal Comparability Factor (A.C.F.)," 0.77, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 11.4 as compared with 11.6 for the Country as a whole.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities. Additional facilities to supplement those already available have been provided by the Establishment of Emergency Public Health Laboratories, under the direction of the Medical Research Council.

Ambulance Facilities. These meet the needs of the district, and if they should be overworked they can now be augmented by arrangement with vehicles of the Emergency Medical Services.

Nursing in the Home. Local Nursing Associations' arrangements remain the same ; one independent nurse has gone.

Registered Nursing Homes. There are two in the district.

Treatment Centres and Clinics ; Hospitals, Public and Voluntary. Remain the same as last year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply. During 1942 no material change has taken place in the water supply.

Drainage and Sewerage ; Rivers and Streams ; Closet Accommodation. No material change has taken place.

Scavenging and Salvage.

The Councils vehicle with driver only carries out house to house collections in 28 parishes.

In addition to the actual collection of the material, considerable time must be spent on grading and separating and preparing for sale, consequently a considerable time elapses between visits.

The collection of paper is carried out by various organisations in the parishes and up to the end of the year, 174 tons had been sent to the Mills since the salvage scheme commenced.

Owing to shortage of labour and transport and a very poor market, there is about 100 tons of scrap metal in the district, but it is hoped to obtain assistance from the Ministry of Works and Buildings in the near future.

Scavenging arrangements in Southminster and Tollesbury remain the same.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table gives details of the work carried out. The work was considerably curtailed as a result of shortage of staff and the time taken up by salvage work.

Inspections		Notices			
Nature	Number	Informal	Formal	Complied with	Outstanding at end of year.
Infectious Diseases Inquiries ..	80	..	..	..	..
Disinfection	34	..	..	..	..
Ordinary Nuisances	75	36	..	36	4
Dwelling—Structural Defects	91	18	..	18	4
Housing—Overcrowding Cases	22	7	..	4	3
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	301	75	3	81	10
Bakehouses	33	..	..	..	..
Slaughterhouses	5	..	..	..	..
Privies and Pail Closets ..	22	4	..	4	..
Water Closets	15	3	..	2	2
Defective Yard Paving ..	..	..	..	..	..
Drainage	104	48	..	51	6
Water Supply	33	4	..	5	..
Animals improperly kept ..	..	..	..	..	..
Offensive Accumulations ..	28	11	..	14	..
Other Nuisances	39	15	..	15	..
Urinals	..	..	..	..	..
Schools	21	..	..	..	..
Food Shops	219	4	..	4	..
Appointments and Interviews ..	392	..	..	..	..
Factories and Workshops ..	48	7	..	7	..
Rats and Mice	64	8	..	8	..
Miscellaneous Inspections ..	250	..	..	..	..
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ..	15	3	..	3	..
Ice Cream Vendors	..	..	..	..	..
Shops	8	..	..	..	..
Dilapidated Buildings ..	29	..	..	..	..
Salvage	1475	..	..	..	..
Totals	3403	243	3	252	29

Smoke Abatement ; Swimming Baths and Pools ; Eradication of Bed Bugs ; Knackers' Yards. No alteration or action affecting these matters took place during the year.

Camping Sites. No licence to use land as camping sites were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year.

Bakehouses. Remain the same.

Hostels for Land Workers. Periodical visits were made to the 5 hostels in the District and in the middle of the year, considerable trouble was experienced with vernimous conditions at 2 of the Hostels.

HOUSING

Statistics for the Year, 1942.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Total	Nil
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies and persons	Nil

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year* :—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	87
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	347
(2)(*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	7
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	12
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	64

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices* :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	51

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year* :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit by owners after service of formal notices ..	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notices	—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(a) Undertakings to repair accepted under Sections 11 and 13 and work subsequently completed ..	—
(b) Undertakings to repair accepted	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	—

4. *Housing Act*, 1936, *Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ..	5
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	19
	(iv)	Equivalent number of persons dwelling therein	15½
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	20
	(iii)	Equivalent number of persons concerned in such cases	15

Observation is kept of the records of border line cases so that when they become overcrowded due to the increasing ages of the inmates they are reported to the Public Health Committee.

Clearance Areas. No further work of demolition in respect of the 25 houses comprising the six Clearance Areas confirmed by the Ministry of Health in 1939.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

There are 198 cowkeepers in the district, 115 are licensed to produce accredited milk. Two supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised Milk and one to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk were granted during the year.

Below is a summary of notices served and work done in relation to improvements to Cowsheds and Dairies.

NUMBER OF NOTICES.

Outstanding at the end of 1941.	Informal.	Formal.	Completed.	Outstanding at the end of 1942.
13	75	3	81	10

In addition during the year five new dairies were built.

Meat and Other Foods.

Owing to the Ministry of Food Control and Centralizing of Slaughtering there are now no slaughterhouses in the district. There is one licensed Knacker's Yard at Purleigh. 219 visits have been made to the butchers' shops, vans and food shops. A particular watch has been kept on the stocks of tinned food of all kinds at the grocers and provision merchants.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 49 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, exclusive of Tuberculosis, but including Measles and Whooping Cough.

The supply of diphtheria anti-toxin to medical practitioners is still available.

The following tables show the incidence of infectious diseases during the year.

The district was comparitively free of infectious diseases, and it is satisfactory to report that no cases of Diphtheria was notified throughout the year.

Scabies. Arrangements were made to treat cases at St. Peter's Hospital, Maldon. During the year 25 cases were treated.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR (EXCLUSIVE OF TUBERCULOSIS)

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	5		...		...	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	4	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Measles	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Pneumonia	18	1				1	5	1	...	5	1	2	2	1	3
Erysipelas	4	...	...			...		...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	19	3	3	2	1	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	49	4	4	2	1	8	11	2	...	7	3	4	3	6	3

Immunisation. During the year 488 children between 1-15 years were immunised against Diphtheria, but it is hoped that more parents will take advantage of the facilities provided. Assistance was rendered by the Health visitors and teachers which is appreciated.

The percentage of children immunised at the end of 1942 was :—

Aged 1-15=53·7%
Aged 1-5=49%
Aged 5-15=55·5%

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

Age Periods.	* New Cases.				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	1	2	1	—	1	1	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals	3	4	3	1	3	3	—	—

*Not including cases of Tuberculosis removed into the district during the year, which had been previously notified elsewhere.

TABLE SHOWING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1942.

Parish.	Polioymelitis	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Erysipelis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
Althorne	—	—	—	—	—	11	1	—	—	—	12
Asheldham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bradwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	4
Braxted, Great	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Braxted, Little	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cold Norton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dengie	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fambridge, N.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goldhanger	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Hazeleigh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Langford	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Latchingdon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Mayland	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Mundon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Purleigh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southminster	—	—	1	—	1	1	10	—	—	1	14
Steeple	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Lawrence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stow Maries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tillingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
Tollesbury	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	5
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Tolleshunt Knights	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	5
Tolleshunt Major	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totham, Great	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Totham, Little	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulting	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wickham Bishops	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Woodham Mortimer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Woodham Walter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	5	—	3	19	18	4	7	4	60